

REMARKS

Claims 41, 46 and 70 is currently amended. Claim 71 is new. No new matter is added.

I: The objections to claims 46 and 70

Claims 46 and 70 are currently amended. Reconsideration is urged.

II: The rejection of claims 41, 46, 48, 50-58, 60, 62-70 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 41, 46, 48, 50-58, 60, 62-70 stand rejected as anticipated in light of Chen et al. (1995, PNAS, Vol. 140, pp.297-304 (hereinafter referred to simply as "Chen")).¹

Chen does not demonstrate that higher expression of MrgA leads to higher expression of other proteins. The independent claims as amended herein require the secretion or production (respectively) of the heterologous exoprotein and MrgA to be increased compared to an otherwise isogenic *Bacillus* cell without: a) a heterologous promoter operably linked with at least one gene encoding metallo regulated gene A (MrgA) protein with an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence show in SEQ ID NO:2, or b) at least one heterologous gene encoding MrgA protein with an amino acid sequence which has at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2. Reconsideration is urged.

III. New Claims

New claim 71 is added. No new matter is added. Should any additional claims fees be due the USPTO is authorized to charge the deposit account of Novozymes North America, Inc, *i.e.*, deposit account no. 50-1701.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application. Should any additional fees be due the USPTO is authorized to charge the deposit account of Novozymes North America, Inc, *i.e.*, deposit account no. 50-1701.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Applicants respectfully submit that, based on the Examiner's quotations, Applicants understood the Examiner was referring to Chen, et al. (1995 PNAS, VOL. 92, pp. 8190-8194).